



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stream obstructions topic of public hearings

TOPEKA – The Kansas secretary of agriculture and the chief engineer of the division of water resources are seeking input at two public hearings that could impact how bridges, dams and other stream obstructions are permitted in Kansas.

The first hearing will be at 9 a.m. Monday Oct. 21 in the 2nd floor auditorium of Memorial Hall, 120 SW 10th Street, Topeka. A second hearing is set for 1 p.m. Tuesday Oct. 22 in room 3080 of the Finney State Office Building, 230 E William, Wichita.

The hearings are one measure the 2002 Legislature included in Senate Bill 436, which passed earlier this year. The bill also calls for the department to evaluate its current policies and report on the strengths and weaknesses of a watershed approach to permitting proposed dams and other stream obstructions.

The department's current policy when reviewing applications for stream obstructions is to evaluate the hydraulic impact any proposed obstruction would have on property immediately upstream and downstream from a project. A watershed approach to project permitting would entail a broader analysis of the impact a proposed project could have on stream flow and could require applicants to conduct watershedwide modeling of a stream being crossed by a proposed bridge or culvert.

Comments at the public hearings will supplement information gathered from cities, counties and other stakeholders, and will be included in a report to the Legislature that will outline the strengths and weaknesses of a watershed approach to permitting stream obstructions.

Persons who want to present information at either of the public meetings should send their written testimony by Oct. 15 to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, ATTN: Leslie Garner, 109 SW 9th Street, 4th Floor, Topeka, KS 66612-1280. Written testimony should include the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the testimony and the party represented. Comments may also be made in writing, as long as they are received by the Kansas Department of Agriculture by Oct. 30, 2002.

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On the Web:

Kansas Department of Agriculture: <http://www.accesskansas.org/kda/>

Senate Bill 436 text: <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2002/436.pdf>

Senate Bill 436 supplemental note: <http://www.kslegislature.org/supplemental/2002/SN0436.pdf>